



OUT OF PRISON, INTO THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

By Ng Keng Gene

The first time Rev Daniel Lee had lunch with his cell group after Sunday service at his new – and first – church in 2009, he did not want to join them for a meal again. Rev Lee, who was not a pastor at that point, had just been released from prison after being incarcerated since 1995.

“They were so familiar with and used to each other, and they were generally from the middle and upper-middle class – the conversations ended up revolving around tennis and travel miles,” said Rev Lee, who is currently an Associate Minister of All Saints Presbyterian Church. “I didn’t even have a passport, and I asked myself repeatedly why I was part of the conversation. I told myself I wouldn’t follow them over the next few weeks.” Yet, in spite of his discomfort, Rev Lee persisted in attending church. His perseverance had been borne out of a 13-year journey of walking with Christ while behind bars.

Committing To Christ

It was in December 1996 that Rev Lee came to know Christ, on a night he was contemplating taking his own life in prison.

Devastated that he was going to lose his elder brother who had been sentenced to hang for a drug offence, Rev Lee sat alone one night, moping in his cell when he heard the words of Amazing Grace, sung by a Christian group at a Christmas outreach event. The song was followed by another in Chinese – 一件礼物 – and a short message on John 3:16. Touched by what he had heard, Rev Lee asked God to prove if He was real, by giving him hope to live for another night.

“That thought, and that question, broke me down and I just cried,” said Rev Lee. “As a gangster I never cried. Even when my mum had cancer, and my brother was sentenced to death, I didn’t cry. But somehow this broke me, and so I said this must be a real God.” In the moments after, Rev Lee was hit by flashbacks through which he recounted his life.

Rev Lee’s father died when he was aged two, and when he was two months into secondary school, his mother developed colon cancer. Without social support, Rev Lee and his elder brother dropped out of school. Their household could not afford a rental flat and so they made do with a rental room – enough to hold Rev Lee’s grandmother, mother and sister but not Rev Lee and his brother, who resorted to living in the streets.

“All this while I had blamed circumstances for how I had turned out – if God is so caring, why must I go through this? But on that day when I knelt down, and when I thought about my circumstances, He led me to a different perspective,” said Rev Lee. He heard from God: “Are you the only one who goes through circumstances? What about others around the world?”

He realised that night that “what led me into prison were my choices”. From then on, Rev Lee asked God for the strength and commitment to make the right choices daily, while he served the remainder of his sentence. Over 13 years, he honed his ability to choose correctly in his spiritual life, which led him to press on in attending church, even if he felt completely out of place when he first met his new cell group in 2009.

Journeying With Others

Understanding what it meant to be part of the body of Christ also helped him to keep to his commitment. Every Sunday, Rev Lee made it a point to arrive for worship services early, and would often bump into an old lady in the pews.

The two struck up a conversation after a while, and Rev Lee learnt that the lady had a husband who was paralysed from the neck down, which had made her spiral into depression and develop suicidal thoughts. “She shared with

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

me that she wanted to end her life, and I would just talk to her and listen to her," he said. "That helped me to realise that there is a purpose in coming to church, because coming to church was not just for me to integrate but also how I got to know others, and encourage others."

Rev Lee shared about his own struggles with suicidal thoughts with the old lady, and continued listening to and encouraging her. At that point, walking with others was not new to him – he had done the same for others, while in prison.

Upon realising that he wanted to make up for lost time after coming to Christ in 1996, Rev Lee decided to catch up on his studies – his highest academic qualification at that point was the Primary School Leaving Examination. But prison rules at that time required him to serve two thirds of his sentence before he could enter prison school. Discouraged but undeterred, he spoke with God and got an answer – he could undertake self-study in his cell.

He asked for mathematics materials from other inmates who were attending school, and got them to tutor him. They also brought Rev Lee's English composition scripts to class with them, which their teachers would grade. At first, his scripts returned "red" – an indication of the number of mistakes and corrections the teachers had marked out. But over time, Rev Lee learned to express himself by "copying and

pasting" phrases from the Reader's Digest magazine, which improved his writing ability. His scripts returned "less red".

In the ninth year of his sentence, Rev Lee applied to formally enrol for studies. As he was marginally over the age limit to be a student then, an entrance test was arranged for him. He was given some mathematics questions to solve, and a blank sheet of paper to write "anything you want" in English. Knowing it was his one chance to take classes, he made sure not to waste it, and filled in the sheet from the very top corner – even beyond its margins.

Rev Lee was assessed to be capable enough to study for the O-Level examinations – one level above the N-Level exams, which would have been a natural progression from his educational qualifications then. He however declined the opportunity, and chose to study for the N-Levels instead. "I had been praying all these years to God, and said that if I was accepted to study, my goal would not be to build myself academically – of course that was my initial goal – but to be someone who journeys with, inspires and encourages fellow students to stick to their commitment to study," he said. "It helped me to build up my confidence as a tutor, and also affirmed my calling – God had put me there for a reason."

This commitment to serving God and others had been unlike other commitments that Rev Lee had previously tried

A Personal Note

You hold in your hands a bumper issue of The Messenger – a reflection of the many activities that have taken place in the past few months, as we seek to fulfil the 2024 church theme of Equipping God's People, Advancing His Kingdom. Yet, if the issue is to be summed up in one word, it would be 'Reflections' rather than 'Actions'.

Reflecting on God's creation with the Creation Care Taskforce (pgs 4-6), and the Arts Fellowship sketching workshops (pgs 12-13). Reflecting on the death of Christ at Tenebrae through the artworks (pg 17). Reflecting on the different seasons of a woman's life with the Ladies' Ministry (pgs 9-10) and the journey of manhood with the Men's Ministry (pgs 10-11), as well as the importance of cell groups (pg 3). Reflecting on how God sustains us through difficult times and demonstrates His grace and provision in seeing E-Rae through her illness (pgs 7-8). Reflecting on the church camp (pgs 20-21).

This is most appropriate, even though the church theme appears to be more action-oriented. For "Being" should come before "Doing". And equipping is not just about skills but spiritually, growing in our relationship with God and our identity in Christ, which is then expressed in service.

It is not just reflecting on our inner selves but how we show ourselves to others. What does our church look like to someone who steps through the doors of PSPC? Reflecting on Rev Daniel Lee's experience of trying to integrate into a church after he was released from prison (cover article) – do we unconsciously put off those who may be trying to join the church community? What about those who are 'different' or 'strange' – will they feel at home and that they belong, just as Jesus welcomed the outcast and despised in His day? How can we be more sensitive to the needs of those around us? Are we a light on a hill, or does that light only shine inward?

While we are focusing on equipping ourselves to be God's ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20), one very important aspect is to put on the full armour of God, as in Eph 6:10-18 – the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of readiness to share the gospel, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

Finally, Adriel Yap's article on his experience walking the Camino (pgs 14-15) is a good illustration of our journey with God. We may not know what's around the corner; we just need to look for the yellow arrows and walk in faith and trust.

Chia Gaik Bee

June 2024

Do you have any feedback on *The Messenger*? Do let us know at pspcmessenger@gmail.com

the team Editor ~ Chia Gaik Bee • Writers ~ Ng Keng Gene, Lewis Tham, Adeline Fam, Isabel Tia, Lim Sook Fun and Noah Tan • Sub-editors ~ Debbie Chai, Dorothy Tan and Wang Su Chen • Elder-in-Charge ~ Elder Long Seh Wei • Art Direction ~ Serena Lim • Coordinator ~ Choo Wai How • Printing Co-ordination ~ First Step Communications

to honour. "When I committed my choices to God, God always gave me a different perspective," he said. "Initially it was about 'me'. But when I committed the decision to God, He showed me it was about 'more than me'."

Fitting In

Following his first lunch in church with the cell group, several members – including Michael, a prison volunteer who had first introduced Rev Lee to the church – sensed that he was uncomfortable. Another cell group member, Edwin, who had realised Rev Lee's discomfort, made an effort to meet him outside of Sundays. He even drove down to Rev Lee's place of work – Prison Fellowship Singapore's (PFS) office, at that point – to have lunch with him and find out how well he was integrating in church. Upon discovering that Rev Lee enjoyed exercising, Michael and Edwin would ask him to go jogging and swimming with them.

"They tried their best to see how they could make me feel at ease, as they knew it was an environment I had to slowly adapt to – failing which I might have gone back to my old friends," said Rev Lee. In April 2010, Rev Lee was baptised, and was invited by the pastor to share his testimony with the church. Prior to that, barely anyone in the congregation had known about his background, except his cell group.

"After I shared my testimony, I felt very awkward. Some people looked at me differently, but others were very encouraging – the reactions were on both ends of the spectrum," he said. It eventually took him about a year to 18 months to get comfortable with his cell group, and for his cell group mates to get comfortable with him. Through frank conversations and by observing how Michael and Edwin treated Rev Lee, the rest of the group learnt to connect with him better.

Over time, Rev Lee was comfortable enough to share that he had felt completely out of place during their first lunch, while the group mates realised their insensitivity and apologised to him.

"Sometimes when there are newcomers in church, we are so used to ourselves that we neglect them," he said.

Welcoming Others

In journeying with other ex-offenders, Rev Lee has learnt that making a deliberate effort to get to know them, their past, as well as their behavioural patterns and support system has been key to helping them grow. The journey of integration is slow, and requires patience, Rev Lee said, speaking from his own experience as an ex-offender, and as one who has helped to integrate others. While there is no need to introduce ex-offenders as such, and perpetuate stigmas, he said, it helps to be upfront with ex-offenders who are new to church.

Informing them that there might be people in church who are wary about their past helps to manage expectations so that the newcomers will not leave disappointed, he said. "Many ex-offenders are afraid of rejection. It's something I experienced myself, I had very low self-esteem," said Rev Lee, who added that taking the first step into church was difficult, and meeting his cell group for the first time made things even tougher.

Asked if he ever felt like quitting, Rev Lee said he found his security in God. "When I faced rejection after I shared my testimony and told God how I felt, His response was 'Who do you find your security and hope in?'" said Rev Lee. "It's in God, and not in people. "My relationship with God has been built through thoughts, and somehow He has always answered me – all this while I've been taught to look up to God."

Reflections on Cell Groups

By Ho Zhi Wei

In our attempts to navigate and seek answers in a chaotic world, we often yearn for divine and supernatural interventions in our lives. As Christians who believe in a divine and supernatural God, this is a reasonable expectation. Yet, God has ordained the means by which our lives are ordered, and the ways in which we understand and experience God's grace are often in ordinary and mundane ways. The early Christians effected this social reality when they "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). And as this account makes clear, these activities - teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer - are realised communally.

At a recent seminar on facilitating close and caring relationships in our cell groups, Dr Danny Goh's observations from social psychology further attests to the ways in

which we are ordered, through our need for inclusion, affection, and control (or to be respected). While our sinful selves mean that we often seek to fulfil these needs in misguided and distended ways, such as at the workplace or on social media, the early Christians exemplified the chief means through which we can find true belonging, love, and fulfilment, that is, in the local church community, where "Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption" through "outward and ordinary means" (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Answer 88).

In other words, it is through the local church community, both in corporate worship and in close fellowship in small community groups, that we learn about, practise, and enjoy the benefits of the Gospel. If we believe this truth, this makes our participation in the local church community, for instance, through the Prinsep Cell Group Ministry, especially vital.



Caring for God's Creation

By Dn Lai Kian Fong



The Creation Care Taskforce was first formed in 2019. However, the work was disrupted when COVID-19 struck. As the pandemic situation stabilised in 2022, I was asked by Rev Darryl to look into the next phase of work that we could do for our church's Creation Care. As I had a growing interest in this area, I prayerfully accepted the call to serve in this ministry. The Creation Care Ministry was officially formed in 2023 to restart the work. The ministry is looking at how Creation Care can be incorporated into various ministries in the church. Having participated in an exercise on "Contemplating God in the Beauty of Nature" in 2022, I wondered if our Spiritual Formation Group could incorporate Creation Care into its programme.

In October 2023, I participated in a reflective prayer exercise on "Care for God's Creation" organised by the Spiritual Formation Group led by Preacher Dawn. This was a two-week exercise to cultivate the spiritual discipline of caring for God's creation. Ten of us took part in this meaningful exercise. A WhatsApp group was created to share our reflections. For each week, each of us took a photograph, prayerfully reflected, and journalled a reflection.

In this exercise, I learned to begin by praising God and marvelling at His creation. Then, I spent time prayerfully observing the environment around me, whether I was on the move or remaining still. I stayed mindful and attentive to the deterioration of the earth and the cries of the people. I pondered over how our Christian faith influences our lifestyle

and our role in creation care. I then shared my reflections in the WhatsApp group. This exercise helped me to connect more profoundly with God's creation and fostered a sense of awe and reverence for the world created by God. It also helped me to be more aware and mindful of how my daily actions could impact the environment. I also learned to share my reflections with others.

From the very beginning in Genesis, God entrusted us with the stewardship of His creation (Gen 2:15), calling us to cultivate and care for it. This divine mandate continues to resonate through the scriptures, culminating in the vision of a renewed earth (Rev 21:1-4). Creation Care connects us to our relationship with God and His creation, prompting us to reflect on our choices, adjust our lifestyles, and take action to care for God's creation and support the vulnerable in His created world. The exercise challenged our daily habits and encouraged us to take meaningful actions. It reminded us of the deep connection between our faith and our responsibility to be God's good stewards of His creation. Here are some of our reflections; I pray that these will open our hearts and minds as we seek to honour God through our commitment to care for His creation.

Shaun Lee
Date: 14 Oct 2023
Place: Rail Corridor



Give Thanks: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." - Psalm 139:14

Beauty of Creation: My Lord is a wonderful, creative artist. There is no cloud, rock, tree or creature out of place. No matter where I look in nature, I can place a frame around it and it would be an amazing art-piece!

Cries of the Earth: Despite being given stewardship over creation, man often disturbs and destroys this artistry. Made in God's image, we too have amazing creative potential, but we use our intelligence and innovation to serve ourselves. And when we have finished using our "creations" they become waste, irresponsibly discarded, becoming a scar to the land. The littered drink can is not only an unsightly blemish but also a hazard to living things.

Highlight of the Week: Thank God for His grace to grant me awareness and spur me to constant vigilance. I am mindful of the impact of excessive waste and seek to refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle wherever I can.

Lowlight of the Week: With the busyness of life, I'm often tempted to take the easy route. There are times when laziness gets the better of me and I neglect to manage my waste properly.

Respond: It may at times be inconvenient, but I must be prepared to be uncomfortable. May God grant me the discipline needed to develop an instinct for eco-responsibility and creation care. Beyond this, may I also be an effective advocate and role-model to others.

Looking forward: "We put our hope in the LORD; he is our protector and our help. We are glad because of him; we trust in his holy name. May your constant love be with us, LORD, as we put our hope in you." - Psalm 33:20-22 (GNT)

Joyce Tan
Date: 14 Oct 2023
Place: Friend's garden



Give Thanks: Thank you, our most loving and gracious Creator God, for pouring out Yourself into all that we see and have our being in – the Earth, our Common Home, and the vast heavens above. We are Your creatures and we look to You for every breath and every good thing.

Beauty of Creation: “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Yes, there’s beauty in God’s creation, and I’ve been privileged to have enjoyed seeing and being in the glory and beauty of the oceans, coastlines, rivers, valleys, hills and mountains.

Cries of the Earth: Yet, with the passing of time, even during my brief lifetime, there is a stronger foreboding sense of the vulnerability of habitats and ecosystems for wildlife, forests, and human civilization. I do not know how our Creator God is holding all that’s happening together, from beginning to end. We see and hear of environmental disasters, unprecedented summer temperatures, wildfires, floods, earthquakes, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, failed crops and harvests, displaced people.

Highlight of the Week: I was heartened to finally read the links shared by Dawn, from creationcare.sg, our local Christian advocacy and action group, and the Laudate Si Movement, initiated by Pope Francis in 2021, listing 52 practical ways to care for creation.

Lowligh of the Week: I often feel defeated, even before I start thinking how a single individual can make a difference. Yes, I bring my own grocery bags to the market, I drink from my own metal water bottle, I take five-minute showers (except when I wash my hair!), separate my trash and put them in the recycling bin (but all items in one bin?) How will it ever be enough?

Respond: I’m so thankful for this group of 10 that have come together under the Spiritual Formation initiative at PSPC, now focusing on How we can Care for God’s Creation. I am not alone!

Looking Forward: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” Ecclesiastes 3:1. We do not know what “season or time” we’re in, in God’s infinite wisdom and perspective. We only know that everything belongs to God. It is impossible for me or even a few million faithfuls to turn the tide of global warming and environmental disasters. But this Creation Care Movement, renewing our commitment and responsibility as caretakers of the Earth and creation, has to be the way we can take. We need to love what God loves, and put our hearts and minds to it.

Lai Kian Fong
Date: 20 Oct 2023
Place: Punggol



Give Thanks: “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!” (Psalm 113:3)

Beauty of Creation: The sun rises. The birds are chirping. The trees are ready to embrace the light and warmth. People are doing morning workouts. It is the beginning of another bright new day.

Cries of the Earth: The warm weather season seems to be dragging longer due to global warming. With higher temperatures, wildfires start more easily and spread more rapidly when conditions are hotter. The increase in the number of hot spots from our neighbouring country has resulted in the recent haze in Singapore. The people living near the hot spots are suffering.

Highlight of the Week: The flats’ rooftops are installed with solar panels to generate electricity for the common facilities on this day of haze-free fine weather. I recall the solar project that I did for my company a year back. It

was a long, challenging process but we finally implemented it.

Lowligh of the Week: While at home during the day, sometimes I just turn on the aircon when the weather is hot and forget to switch it off when not in use.

Respond: I ask the Lord to help me be mindful of my actions so that I will not harm the environment and indirectly cause people to suffer.

Looking forward: Hope to have more people join the work of raising creation care awareness in our church.

(Continued on Page 6)

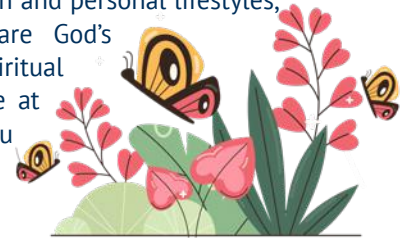
(Continued from Page 5)

I hope that the sharing by the participants would grant us appreciation of the beauty of God's world as well as awareness of the cries of the Earth; how do we respond in caring for God's creation? These may serve as reminders of our responsibilities and how our actions might have an impact on God's creation. We could start with doing our part in little ways such as using reusable cups for cold/hot drinks in office and in church, reducing the use of plastic bags when buying groceries, taking public transport if possible, as well as living a simpler lifestyle and looking into our choice of purchases, choice of food, water consumption, energy saving, etc.

I hope that you will also do this simple reflective exercise using the steps listed by the participants to connect more deeply with God and reflect on your care for His creation. May

we continue to draw strength and wisdom from God, knowing that our efforts in Creation Care are a reflection of His love and care for the world. Together, let us encourage one another to be faithful stewards of His creation, bringing glory to God through our dedication and actions.

The Creation Care Ministry aims to raise awareness of creation care with a biblical perspective, encourage sustainable practices in church and personal lifestyles, community outreach to share God's love, and develop personal spiritual formation. Please contact me at kianfong21@gmail.com if you would like to find out more about our work.



Annual Congregational Meeting (28 April 2024)

By Lewis Tham

At the 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM), PSPC's Constitution was amended to allow for online ACMs. Following the direction of the Synod, this denominational initiative was a deliberate action and a contingency plan in preparation for situations like that of COVID-19, which had seen the disruption of face-to-face meetings for several years.

Amendment of the Church Constitution to Permit Online ACM

For an ACM to commence, the attendance of at least 30% of registered members is required. However, with the proposal to amend the Constitution to allow online ACMs, the ACM of 2024 required at least 50% to be called to order. On 28 April, of our 785 registered church members, 554 (70.57%) were physically present. The members voted in favour of the amendment to the Constitution to permit online ACMs with a majority of 449 yes votes to 7 nays (see numbers below).

Election and Re-Election of Elders and Deacons

ACM 2024 also covered the election and re-election of two Elders and two Deacons. Each voting segment was preceded by a time for questions from the communicant members. Updates on the Pastoral Team, Church Staff, as well as the 2024 Budget were also provided.

The two candidates for election and re-election for Eldership were Wan Kum Tho and Elder Wilson Teng, respectively. Esther Ng and Jerome Lim were the candidates for election and re-election for Deaconship. All four were successfully elected.

Reappointment of Auditors

The ACM also called for the voting of Tan & Teh to be reappointed as PSPC's auditors for 2024. The passed vote also approved 2024's audit fee to take into consideration rising inflation and GST rates.

What were the results?

The vote on the Resolution to Amend the Constitution was as follows:

- Total Votes: 460
- 'Yes' Votes: 449
- 'No' Votes: 7
- Spoilt Votes: 4

For the election and re-election of Elders and Deacons, all the candidates were elected or re-elected to office.

Thoughts on Future Online ACMs

When the floor was open for questions about online ACMs, several church members expressed concern about the effects an online ACM could bring. Their queries ranged from the conditions for an online ACM to be held to the privacy and secrecy of voting online. With online ACMs permitted constitutionally, PSPC's ACMs will continue to be on-site as much as possible because the Elders and Deacons Court (EDC) holds the position that the ACM is a platform to exercise the spiritual and communal responsibilities of communicant membership. The ACM is also an expression of representative governance in our Presbyterian polity. Responding to the questions of the viability of online ACMs, the EDC gave the assurance that if and when an online ACM needs to be called, the church leadership will ensure that through technologies such as end-to-end encryption, the online voting process will remain private and secure.

Conclusion

Overall, ACM 2024, though ending later than expected, was an informative process for PSPC members. It demonstrated PSPC's dedication to transparency, accountability, and the thoughtful evolution of its governance practices.

My Hope Comes From Him

By Eld Jack Lum

(Do not forget) "who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end." - Deut 8:15,16

No one would ever want to go through "the great and terrifying wilderness with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water." It is a harsh place of death and suffering. But if you have to go through it, your only comfort is that the Lord God Himself will lead you out of it. The Israelites went through it on their journey towards the Promised Land. Jesus was there for 40 days and nights, tempted by Satan and yet emerged victorious, on His way to the cross.

What seemed like a normal flu for E-Rae, though a bit prolonged, turned out to be the wilderness for my family. When the usual dosage of Panadol was not able to help Rae recover from her 'flu', we brought her to see the GP. When the GP sent us straight to the National University Hospital A&E (and I could sense the urgency of the matter from his action), I knew something was seriously wrong. Rae's condition deteriorated quickly and she was gasping for breath. She had to be intubated immediately and warded in the ICU. We learnt later that what she had was not just the usual flu but Influenza A. As a special needs person, she lacked the ability to overcome the bug and we were told that her right lung had totally collapsed when we brought her to NUH.

That was on 11 Dec 2023. Rae was in the ICU for three weeks and on 2 Jan 2024 was stepped down to the High Dependency Ward. She was in the HD ward for another three weeks and was discharged on 23 Jan 2024.

During the three weeks in ICU, Rae suffered a lot. She was intubated. There were tubes and wires in every part of her body to monitor her condition and vital signs. She needed the ventilator to help her breathe. Because of the fever and pain, she couldn't sleep for most of her hospitalisation. She only slept when she was heavily sedated. She was fighting a temperature that reached 39-40 degrees at times. She had infections that did not seem to go away. She had phlegm which she could not cough out on her own and had to be suctioned every few hours. Her heart rate went as fast as 200 beats a minute. She was given several types of antibiotics as the medical team worked to determine which worked best for her. And the worst thing was she could not tell us how bad she felt. She could not cry out in pain and frustration because there was a tube in her throat.

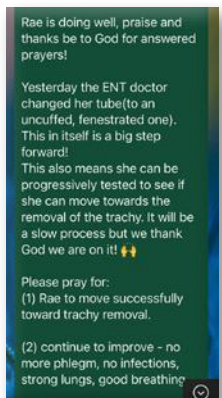
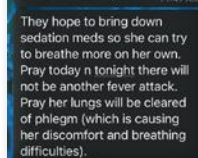
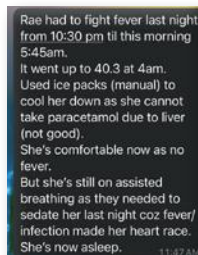
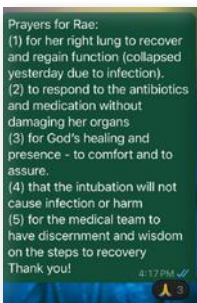
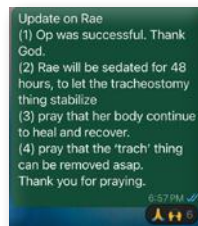
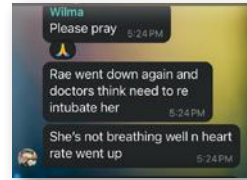
There was hope and there was false hope. At week two, we had hopes that Rae was breathing well enough and that she could be extubated. But once she was off

the ventilator, she could not sustain breathing on her own and had to be 're-intubated'. This happened twice.

As intubation could not be a long term solution, the medical team told us that they would need to do a tracheostomy if Rae's ability to breathe on her own did not improve. We were not keen on tracheostomy as we had heard that some people, once on it, could not get off it, i.e. the tracheostomy was needed permanently. That meant that Rae would lose the ability to make sounds (the only way she could communicate with us) and she would also have to be tube-fed permanently. One of the few things Rae enjoyed were her meals and if that too was taken away – we couldn't bear that thought. After consulting with some friends, we knew that for Rae to continue her recovery, the tracheostomy was necessary.

We had to trust God and pray that it would only be a temporary measure. On 26 Dec, Rae had the tracheostomy operation.

A week after the operation, Rae improved to a point where she could be moved to the general ward. We were both happy and concerned, happy that she was



(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from Page 7)

well enough to be discharged, would be discharged with the tracheostomy tube removed. For that to happen, she had to pass the 'breathing tests'. Rae was put on 2-hour, then 4-hour, then 8-hour breathing tests. She passed them. Then came the major 'exams' – the 24-hour and 48-hour tests. Like an 'A' student, she passed them with flying colours! With that,



E-Rae at home on the day of her discharge from NUH – 23 Jan 2024. She was hospitalised for 44 days.

the medical team was confident to discharge Rae and have the trachea tube removed. We were so happy and excited! God answered our prayer!

Rae was discharged on 23 Jan 2024. The breathing tube was removed one day before the discharge. Only the feeding tube (through her nose) stayed. We could live with that. Our hearts were filled with thankfulness and gratitude as we brought her home.

Our prayer was that we would learn to care for Rae well and bring her back to full health. (Update: Rae had her feeding tube removed on 19 April 2024).

We had been through the wilderness and our faithful God had led us out of it. All praise and glory to God who loves us with a love beyond our understanding and whose plan and purpose for us is always good. Two things sustained us throughout this ordeal.

Rae is home! She is happy and has stopped her complaining! 🥳 (yes, she has been complaining the last few days ever since she knew she could be discharged soon. This girl! 🤪)

Her trachy was removed yesterday, we are so relieved. Thank God!

Her feeding tube remains. Now we have to work on her eating and swallowing. Hopefully it won't be too long before she can eat properly and adequately and the feeding tube can be removed too.



(1) The prayers of God's people

If there is one thing I learnt about Rae's hospitalisation, it is that we all need to be in the family of God. We need to belong to the family of God's people, and for us, it is Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church. The overwhelming outpouring of prayers for Rae was truly remarkable. Naturally we asked our CG and close friends to pray for Rae when she was admitted to NUH. But very quickly, we realised that many people were praying for Rae. We began sending out updates and prayer points as many were asking how they could pray. Not only were brothers and sisters in PSPC praying for Rae, my colleagues from other churches were getting their CGs to pray and sending us their prayers! God heard all our prayers and answered them in His good and perfect way. We were so encouraged and comforted to know that practically the whole church was with us in praying for Rae. Galatians 6:2 reminds us, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

(2) God's sustaining grace

"My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor 12:9.

When I think back on the six weeks of staying with Rae 24-7 in the ICU and then the HD wards, I can only testify to God's goodness and His sustaining grace. Between Wilma, myself and our helper Nguri, we worked out a shift system so that at least one of us would be with Rae at any given time. We were so focused on doing all we could to take care of Rae that we did not feel tired or weary. We were almost robotic – wake up, go to NUH, be with Rae, change shifts, return home,

rest and go again the next day. But truly it was God's grace that sustained us. Amazingly none of us fell ill or the shift system would have broken down. Again it was God's good grace at work that protected us from illness. E-Rae's life verse – "My hope comes from Him" Psalm 62:5 – kept us going. Our hope comes from the Lord.

I heard recently that "it is a tragedy to come out of a disaster and not trust God more" (at the Men's Ministry retreat on 1 May). As for me and my household, we will always worship and serve the Lord.

Thank you PSPC family for your love and prayers throughout Rae's hospitalisation. God bless you. God bless the PSPC family. Amen.



E-Rae's life verse on her prayer card

Ladies' Ministry High Tea (9 March 2024)

By Yeo Yan Choo

Juggling family, work, health, and life in general, sometimes I wonder: how are we able to do it and still find joy? What happens when I grow older, when my nest is empty, and when I retire from work? Would I struggle to find purpose in life? Centred on the Word of God, the Ladies' Ministry High Tea event was one that answered some of the questions I had about the different seasons of life through three speakers. The event, which was held at Kaedan Cafe, was my opportunity to invite a friend to get to know our church in a casual setting, expecting that the topics would help her seek life's answers. What surprised me was that I did not expect that I needed to hear them, too.



forgiving others and self, loving others unconditionally as Jesus has loved us; **Community** – encouraging empathy that asks us to connect with and support one another instead of living in a silo; lastly, **Counselling** – seeking mentoring and professional help, speaking to someone to guide your thoughts, which is always more helpful than living in self-rumination and tunnel vision.

Besides mental health takeaways, there was also professional advice from Dr Karen Liew on how we can take care of our physical body through the different decades of life. As I tend to prefer low impact exercises like swimming, I learnt something new – add weight-bearing exercises to your routine to enhance bone density as you age! Ultimately, living healthily to enable us to do God's good work is living for Christ.

The final sharing was a personal life retrospection by Ms Ng Chern Nee. I resonated with her life story of taking a



"A flourishing woman" – what a wonderful word to look forward to becoming. Through Ms Tricia Lim's sharing, I learnt how we can take care of our mental health through the 4 Cs – cross, compassion, community and counsel. Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Tricia unpacked the 4 Cs as follows: **Cross** – letting God guide our way and renewing the way we see things takes our focus out of hard times; **Compassion** –



(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)

step back to value priorities, how not to sweat the small stuff, and how to seek God instead. Even though I am not elderly yet, I found her messages to retirees highly encouraging and delightful. I have always thought that joy is something I can get if I do XYZ to achieve something in life. To be able to rewire and forge a new identity and purpose when your family/work burdens have been offloaded, giving back to society and serving the church gives joy a new meaning, for I can see more clearly now that the giver is blessed.

The event ended with a letter we had to write to ourselves to be locked away in a one-year time capsule. It was a lovely ending to the event because we can often be too hard on ourselves. It will remind us of how far we have come

in the next year to spur ourselves on. In my friend's words, "The letter was something I didn't know I could write!"

Life is a marathon, as one of the presenters said; there is no guarantee it will be smooth sailing, but cultivating joy in the Lord and an attitude of thanksgiving gives me an inkling as to what it looks like to be "a flourishing woman" as I age. Thessalonians 2:19-20 says, "For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when He comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy." We appreciate the Ladies' Ministry for providing such an outlet to support women; we all need to hear these words of wisdom to guide us through each phase of our lives.



Men's Ministry Retreat (1 May 2024)

Interviews by Lim Sook Fun



On Labour Day, more than 50 men gathered for a talk titled 'Igniting Gospel Resilience in our Journey of Manhood' conducted by our Synod Moderator, Rev Dr Chris Chia. Biblical principles were expounded by Rev Chia, who encouraged participants to reflect, renew, recharge, and hence act accordingly based on these principles. The foundations of Sonship, Friendship, and Brotherhood were exemplified as he unpacked verses in Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 15, John 15: 12-15, Hebrews 2: 10-15, and Colossians 1:11 in order to illustrate his themes. He shared

experiences of practising Christian values and beliefs in daily life. Furthermore, he discussed various types of anxiety disorders which become an enemy of faith. In contrast, God's sovereignty cures anxiety. One could begin with trust in small bites instead of worrying in small bites. Here are a few interviews comprising participants from different walks of life, backgrounds, and ages. Candidly, they shared their 'takeaways' after the talk.

Question: Can you identify one or combined fears you can particularly relate to and share your experience?

PETER LIM: I left the Prison Ministry after twelve years of service to take a sabbatical last year. I am planning to return to the workforce. However, because of my visual impairment and age, it has been challenging to get hired. Hence, I am feeling a low amount of anxiety and experiencing some frightening issues: what if I remain unemployed in the long haul? As I am the breadwinner, what if I cannot provide for my family? What if I become irrelevant in the job market?

I was glad when Pastor Chris shared about the life of Daniel. Despite the fact that he had experienced many changes/challenges in his life's journey, Daniel kept his focus on God. He prayed consistently, and I was reminded to do the same. I am reminded of God's sovereignty, that I should shift from feeling anxious to trusting in God's faithfulness.

Q: What are the lessons learned or lessons in Deuteronomy where you learned about the disciplines to remember?

PETER LIM: I am to remember God's grace and mercies in my life; not only focusing on the good things He has done for me, but also how He has remained faithful in my life despite the fact that I failed him frequently. I trust our Lord will remain faithful till the end.



15 years ago, this 'turning up' is significant to us. Our CG is the anchor of our church life, our best friends and crazy buddies (in a good way).

Q: Do you think challenges could bring us closer to God, and why?

LIONEL GAN: Challenges should bring us closer to God as rejection and setbacks, for example, are inevitable. Nonetheless, because Christ has redeemed us, we need to endure, and be disciplined and patient. Let us face

challenges with faith and determination, knowing that in our steadfastness, we will find true blessing and fulfilment.

Q: Would you like to share one aspect of the talk which resonates with you?

JONATHAN KHOO: The part that resonates with me the most is the reminder of the centrality of family in our lives, especially in how we need to be resilient in coping with challenges. As Rev Chia mentioned, after God, our relationship with our family should be the central key in our lives. They should be our key support, and we need to remember to thank God for our families. We need to pray for our family members constantly. Personally, this is something I am working on.

Q: As a coordinator for this year's Men's Fellowship, would you like to comment on the overall objectives and turnout?

WILSON TENG: We had prayed for 50 men to attend our PSPC Men's retreat, and God enabled over 50 men to turn up on a public holiday. Our hearts are filled with abundant gratitude, and we are delighted to see younger men in attendance.

From the comments of the participants above, it is evident that it is increasingly difficult to be Christian witnesses in this postmodern world. We hope that this retreat with Pastor Chia is a step towards preparing our men to become Gospel-resilient in the face of current and future crucial challenges and changes.

Q: What are some examples of sinful ways causing us to turn away from God? Could you share some personal experiences that hinder us from walking closer with him?

JUSTIN CHOY: Many various kinds of addictions turn us away from God. What we idolise choke our devotion and worship to God. For example, addiction to electronic gaming, dramas and hobbies could prevent us from walking closely with God. When the Word or Spirit eventually confronts our sin, we feel ashamed with our unworthiness in how we have disobeyed God when indulging in our own pleasures. Instead of letting Satan paralyse us with extreme guilt, we are reminded to look to Christ, our God, who is waiting for and watching us patiently and lovingly, reminding us to repent, revive our senses, and return to Him. The parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15 touches me deeply and reminds me of the love and security in the embrace of our heavenly Father. This image is precious and reassuring to me. Pastor Chia's exposition of the prodigal son gives me the confidence to renew my faith, motivating and enhancing me to continue running to our heavenly Father.

Q: Can you comment on the Discipline of Turning Up?

ANDY CHOY: A simple truth but a powerful one. I can relate to the joy of turning up with a specific purpose, like how we turn up for our cell group meeting every Friday evening, even though the entire week has been very stressful and exhausting. In spite of this, we find peace and rest, realigning to God during this time of fellowship. Since we joined the CG



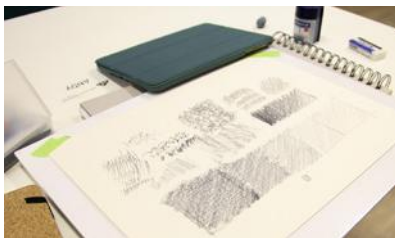
Reflections on the Father's World – The Arts Fellowship's Sketching Workshops

By Isabel Tia

Indoor Session: PSPC, 20 April 2024

Pencil sketching was my childhood hobby; I remember spending hours in the school library refining my sketches (time which my teachers probably wished I had spent on homework). One can imagine my excitement when the church sketching workshop was announced. "But what does sketching have to do with Christianity?" I wondered. As I was to discover, it helped me appreciate the gospel in new ways.

Under Andy Choy's masterful tutelage, even beginners could draw trees and landscapes by the end of the 1st workshop. Key techniques: We first outlined the main features (e.g. trees, pathways) in the drawing before filling in little details like the tree leaves, which were approximated using random scribbles.



Outdoor Session: Singapore Botanic Gardens, 11 May 2024

We visited the Botanic Gardens to apply our drawing skills in the 2nd workshop, which also served as a marvellous reminder of the importance of creation care. Through outdoor sketching, I learned to appreciate the little details in God's creation, particularly in the light and shadow of the natural landscape. Such beauty truly inspires one to be a proper steward of God's earth.

I chose a small field with trees next to a lake for my sketch. Two Bible verses came to mind: Psalm 1:1-3, "*Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. **That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.***"

I was also reminded of Malachi 4:2-3a, "*But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked...*"

I pictured the calves frolicking and dancing, leaping and treading down the wicked in that grassy meadow, together with the members of my cell group who wondered what leaping calves truly look like.

Opening one's eyes to the natural world is a good eye-opener to gospel truths. After all, 'this is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair. In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.'



Follow the Yellow Arrows

By Adriel Yap

For over a thousand years, Christians have walked to Santiago de Compostela in western Spain to honour James the Great, the first of the apostles to be martyred. For those in Western Europe, the 800 kilometre Camino Francés (the French Way), starting at St Jean Pied-de-Port on the French side of the Pyrenees, continues to be the most popular route to Santiago. The yellow arrows that mark the route have guided millions of travellers to Santiago.

Walking the Camino is simple. You eat, sleep, and follow the yellow arrows.



→ FOLLOW THE YELLOW ARROWS:

This is the first rule of the Camino. It is an instruction simple enough for a child to follow. There is no need for a map or compass, though these can provide reassurance. The yellow arrows point to a safe path, even if sometimes they point away from Santiago. The path may be difficult and discouraging, and alternative paths may look seductive. However unknown dangers meet us when we ignore the yellow arrows.

FOLLOW THE YELLOW ARROWS:

One does not need great skill to walk the Camino. One only needs to be able to walk. Knowing something about looking after yourself, getting adequate nutrition and keeping clean are helpful.

Food and accommodation are readily available, often basic, but always adequate. The skill really needed is the ability to ask for help. Help is always available. The Camino always provides when it is asked.

→ FOLLOW THE YELLOW ARROWS:

There is no need for specialist equipment or specialist training. Costly ultralight backpacks and sleeping bags, technical clothing and shoes will make one more comfortable and help one go further each day, but the Camino is not a race; neither is it a marathon. Many have walked the Camino in everyday clothes and shoes. Take only what is necessary; any more only hinders your journey. Seven kilograms in your backpack can provide all you need.



→ **FOLLOW THE YELLOW ARROWS:** You walk as far as you can each day and stop. If you need to abandon the Camino because of other responsibilities, you can always return to finish it. Walking more than your body is physically capable of will bring pain and suffering. Blisters on the feet and sprained ankles are not nice and can bring your walk to a premature end.

FOLLOW THE YELLOW ARROWS: Sometimes the arrows are hard to find. This is when it is good to know that you are not alone. Many are walking with you to the same destination, though not necessarily at the same pace. Over

coffee and shared meals, we listen to each other's stories, and encourage one another.

FOLLOW THE YELLOW ARROWS:

The Camino may offer alternative paths. Sometimes it is necessary for people to take different paths: a good path for walking can be dangerous for those on bicycles or horses, or in wheelchairs. Be careful of arrows that are not yellow: while some point towards Santiago, others may lead you astray and into danger.





➔ **FOLLOW THE YELLOW ARROWS:** Many books and scholarly articles have been written about the Camino. The Camino has been explored in film, sculpture, stained glass, painting, poetry, music and in other creative ways. One can become an expert in Camino without actually having walked it. But the only way to truly know the Camino is to seek and follow the yellow arrows yourself.

FOLLOW THE YELLOW ARROWS: Know that the path is dynamic and changes. Highways are built, towns develop, and sometimes a landslide means a new route has to be found. The old ways may not be the right ones for today. A constant danger is assuming that one knows the path or one follows the crowd ahead and stops searching for yellow arrows for one to follow.

➔ **FOLLOW THE YELLOW ARROWS:** This is your walk. It is a very personal experience. Do not compare yourself with others. Some may have better equipment and walk faster. Others don't carry their luggage, but have them transferred to the next stopping point, and can afford to sleep in private rooms rather than a dormitory with 70 random others that may include world-champion snorers and squeaky bunk beds. Your only responsibility is to wake each morning, find yellow arrows and walk a little further.

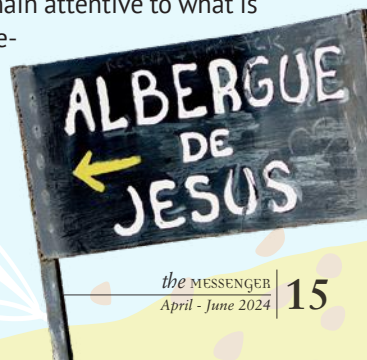


Walking the Camino allows one to leave the regular rhythm of life and discover that we can, without much material goods or financial resources, live a life of joy and simplicity, with purpose, and in community.

In baptism, we are initiated into a journey with a community. We made promises (or promises were made on our behalf) to follow the way (el camino in the Spanish Bible), the person Jesus of Nazareth, who has led the way and has left us 'yellow arrows' to follow. These arrows are concrete signs that show us where we ought to walk, and that there is a common destination for us all.

Following the yellow arrows can be hard. It is the human condition to want to follow the majority. It is difficult to walk against the direction that one's family, friends and colleagues are moving.

Where, then, do we find the yellow arrows that point the way we ought to travel? How do we remain attentive to what is really important and remain single-minded as we journey together on the Camino of life?



Tenebrae Reflections 2024 - Behind the Scenes with Andy Choy

By Noah Tan

Tenebrae Reflections – an annual event dedicated to the remembrance of how and why Christ died for all our sins, is held on the Holy Week at PSPC. Indeed, the pitch-black Sanctuary and the beautiful art pieces that are showcased during Tenebrae Reflections every year are a sight to behold!



However, many do not know about the background and the work that goes on behind the scenes to make Tenebrae Reflections at PSPC the showpiece event that it is. Recently, I interviewed one of the members of The Arts Fellowship (TAF) behind the organising of the Tenebrae Reflections art exhibition - Andy Choy (or Uncle Andy), who has served in every Tenebrae Reflections, first as an artist in 2018, before joining TAF and being part of the organising team since 2019. The following is what I learnt:

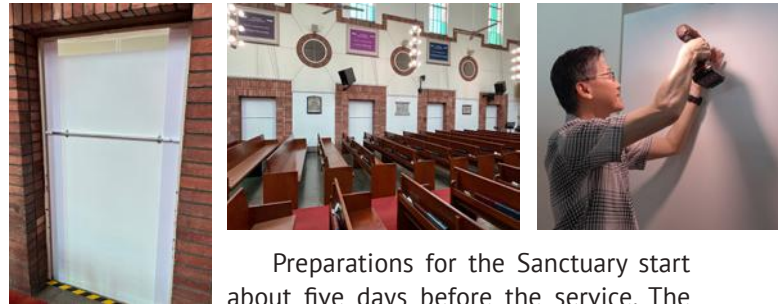
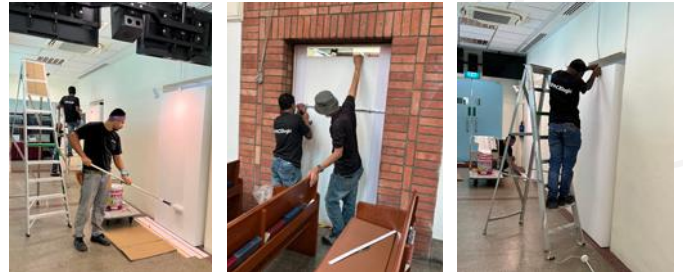
The Background

Tenebrae is the Latin word for “darkness” or “shadows”, referring to a worship service designed to re-create the emotional and spiritual aspects of the Passion Story. During the Tenebrae Reflections service, the Sanctuary is pitch black to allow believers time for silent meditation and rumination about Christ and how he died for all of us. Every year, the TAF team invites Christian artists from PSPC and other Christian organisations to participate and contribute their art pieces, focusing on the theme of Tenebrae Reflections that year.

Tenebrae Reflections consists of two segments - the art exhibition and the worship service, with the Choir presenting a choral work that matches the chosen theme. This choral work serves as a reminder of how Jesus died for all our sins on Good Friday.

Behind the Scenes

Preparations for the Tenebrae Reflections art exhibition start at least four months before the event when TAF meets the artists, briefs them on the theme for the year, provides the guidelines and confirms their participation. Getting artists to commit and participate in the art exhibition is always challenging, mainly due to conflicts in the artists' schedules. Each TAF team member will be matched with an artist to journey with them in prayer, regular sharing and creation process. With God's inspiration and conviction, TAF always looks forward to receiving the artwork at the end of the process and seeing the amazing hand of God at work in providing all the artwork needed for the event.



Preparations for the Sanctuary start about five days before the service. The process involves working with an exhibition contractor, moving out all the pews and chairs in the two wings of the Sanctuary, polishing and repainting the display blocks, which are used to display the different art pieces, and moving them into the Sanctuary. This year, Uncle Andy worked with Francis Tsang (or Uncle Francis) to set up and restore the Sanctuary before and after the event.

Lighting effects are an essential aspect of the Tenebrae Reflections service as the pitch-black Sanctuary allows believers to reflect on the death of Christ and is the crux of this significant night service. The music plays a key role in creating various effects during the choral work, making it integral to the event. Thus, the team involved in the set-up must figure out how best to coordinate the musicians and the lighting effects, depending on the requirements for that year.

There are also safety issues that must be taken care of. Seven candles are lit up at the start of the service, and one by one, they are distinguished by the end. The team has to ensure that there is always a fire extinguisher near the candles in case of fire and that areas with steps are lit up. To prevent the display blocks from falling on anyone, they have to be fixed securely to the floor. These are some of the factors that the set-up team has to manage to ensure the safety of the event. The day after Good Friday, all the pews and chairs that were removed from the Sanctuary would have to be returned to their original places in preparation for Easter Sunday morning service.

How We Can Help

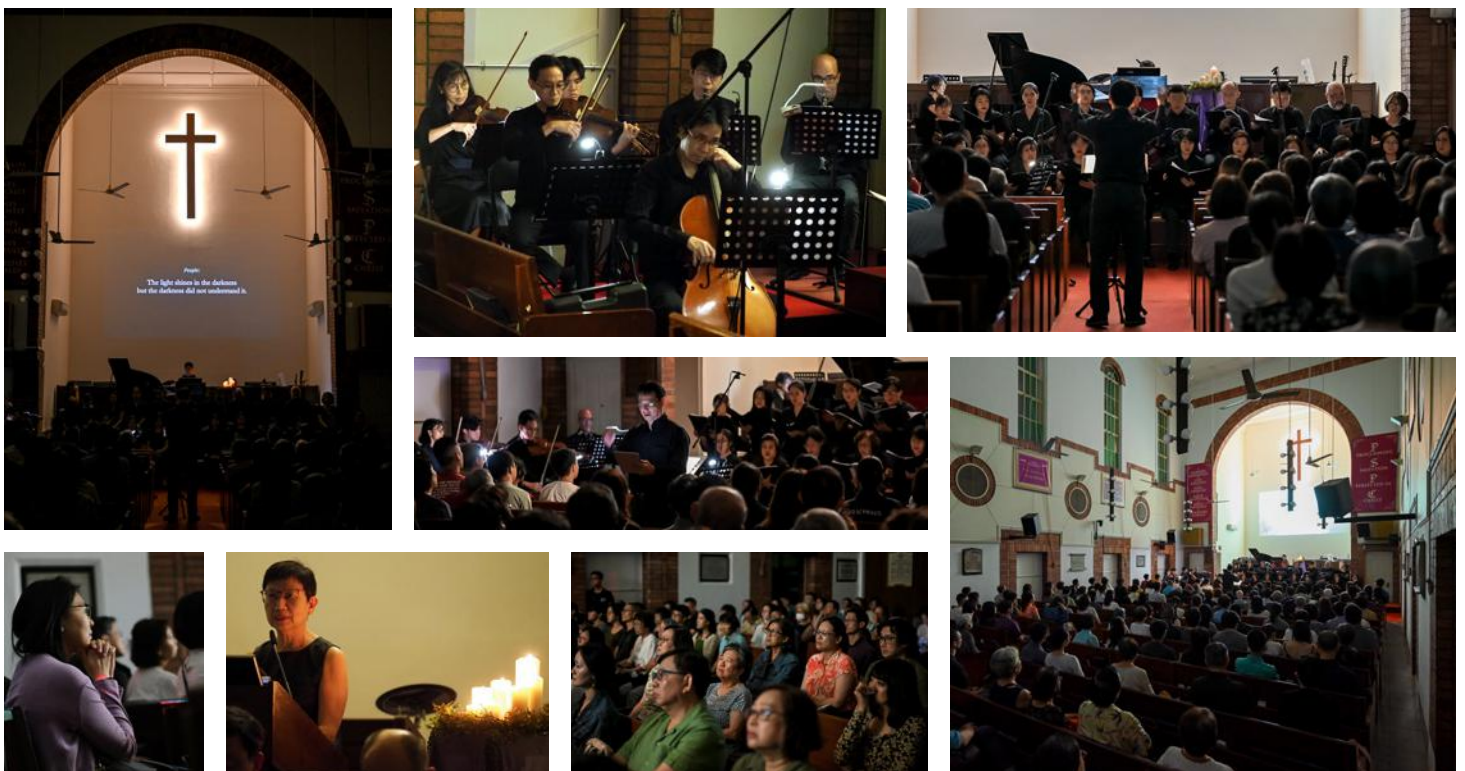
Musicians and visual artists who are interested in participating in Tenebrae Reflections may contact the Music Fellowship or TAF for more information. And anyone who has the muscle power to carry pews and chairs are also welcome to assist!

Tenebrae Reflections 2024

Photos by Joshua Chen, Andy Choy, Michael Goh, Phobe Goh & Ian Ho



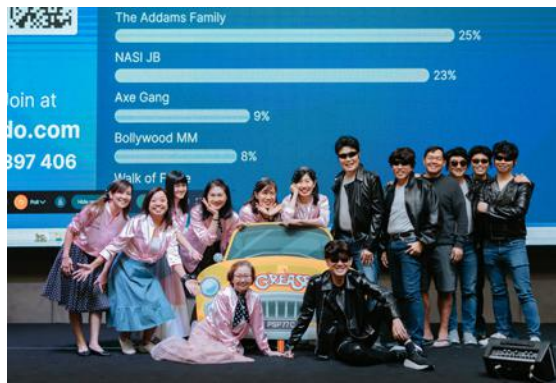
For a closer look at the art pieces that were exhibited at Tenebrae Reflections 2024, go to https://fsc.aflip.in/T2024_ArtExb.html



PSPC Church Camp 2024

Photos by Mark Chen, Michael Goh & Ian Ho





我参加教会营的感想

Reflections from Church Camp 2024

像家一样的营会

吕明康牧师 Rev Lui Meng Hong

感谢神，这次能够在长老会磐石堂（中文部）分享神的话语。这间教会给我的感觉就像一个家，一个能够彼此相爱、接纳、和谐以及成长的家。在营会中，最令我感动的就是看到弟兄姐妹无论男女老少、国籍或语言，都能齐聚一堂，一起欢笑、坦诚、配搭和学习。这确实让我深深体会到磐石堂在主里的合一以及教会如何具体的落实了主所吩咐的大诫命。愿神继续使用磐石堂，以至更多的人因着教会的美好见证而归向基督。阿们。



一点小事

金波 Jinbo

虽不是第一次参加教会营，却是第一次带着家婆和妈妈参加。家婆和妈妈都是非信徒，其实我心里有些担忧，怕她们排斥讲道，怕她们不愿意分享，怕她们不敢参加活动。感谢主的恩典，吕牧师幽默的讲道她们每一场都很认真地听；在一凡传道的带领下，她们在小组畅所欲言；休息时间的活动，她们在弟兄姐妹的鼓励下积极参与；甚至用餐时，当我忙着照顾一位妈妈时，总有弟兄姐妹们和另外一位妈妈交谈，让她们时时刻刻感受到大家的关爱。正如诗歌《一点小事》中所唱的，“使命不必在远方，异象也不遥远，只愿事事尽心，每步与主同行。”感谢弟兄姐妹的举手之劳，正是你们的点点小事，汇聚成温暖人心的爱，成就了最美好的见证！



Richly Blessed at Church Camp

谢绍雄 Shao Xiong

It was the first time my parents joined a PSPC church camp and the first time for myself to join the Chinese programme. To be honest, I was very anxious if my parents would take to the camp. My worries were quickly put to rest as the talks were relatable and easy to understand for my non-



Christian parents but at the same time edifying to my faith as a Christian. However, I thought that the most remarkable thing was the warm and hospitable community that sought to reach out and befriend my parents. So much so that throughout the camp, my mother was the one hurrying us to the various workshops and activities. I am deeply grateful to God for having been so richly blessed by the whole experience at church camp.

化重担为喜悦

王颖卓 Niki Wang

感谢每一位参与策划和筹备营会的弟兄姐妹，让我在这次的营会中渡过一段美好的时光。这次的营会让我有机会认识平时比较少接触的弟兄姐妹，我们一起享受团契生活的甜美，也学会了如何化重担为喜悦。对于我来说，过了个即舒适又休闲的营会，喜乐满怀！



My First Church Camp

邹宏美 Michelle Chau

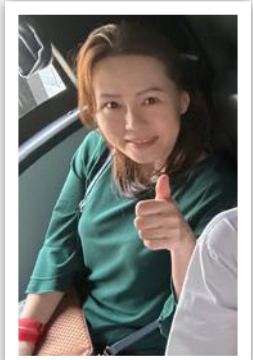
My mum and I had the most wonderful time at our first ever church camp this year! We absolutely enjoyed the Chinese programme activities, especially the buzz group discussions, icebreakers and the talks on DISC, Love Languages and Conflicts between Culture and Faith. We also made many new friendships along the way. We really felt God at work and His peace throughout the entire 4D3N. Big thanks to the Chinese Ministry and all praise & glory to God!



很棒的反思和互相学习

吴江华 Grace Ngu

感谢上帝带领我参加这次的营会，因为在营会里，我和青年团的弟兄姐妹有很多彼此了解的时间，也在一个和睦和轻松的环境里与中文部的弟兄姊妹一起亲近主、学习、讨论和玩游戏。在小组讨论时，大家都能敞开心扉地分享生活上所面对的挑战，和如何以神的话来面对挑战，这样的反思和互相学习是很棒的。我很喜欢吕明康牧师和秀仪姐妹的教导，非常有趣，幽默又易懂。



唯有感恩再感恩!

牛一凡 Niu Yifan

今年教会营的节目丰富多彩，教导与实践并重，真是不虚此行。

圣经说：“同那清心祷告主的人追求公义、信德、仁爱、和平”（提后2:22）。在营会中，弟兄姐妹在主爱中共同学习，彼此服事，互相勉励，一起追求灵命长进，大家都体会到团契合一和彼此相爱的喜乐。

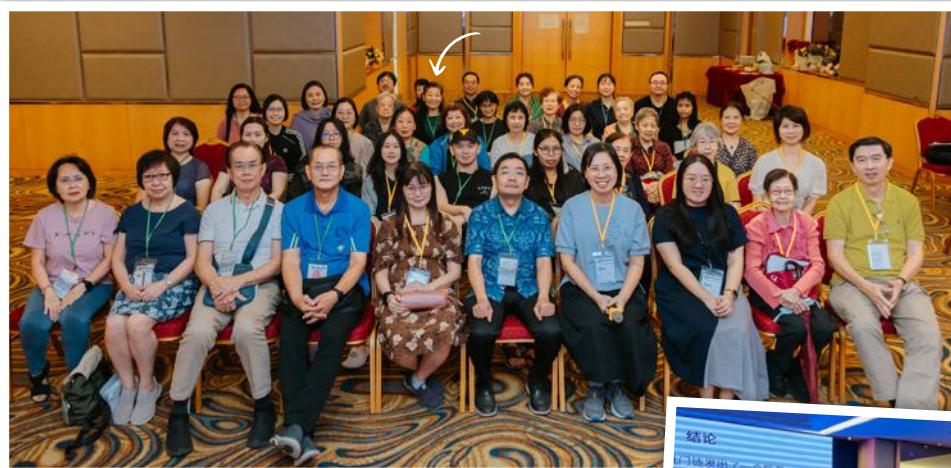
这次的主题信息内容丰富，深入浅出，理论联系实际，贴近现实生活，无论弟兄姐妹处在怎样的灵命成

长阶段，都能有所触动，产生共鸣，提高学习兴趣，且引发深入思考。我相信每位都有收获，因为在小组讨论时，大家争先恐后的发言，反应热烈，讨论具体且深入。

很开心在这次的营会有“专题工作坊”，和秀仪姐妹精心设计的“知己知彼”活动。内容都是我在多年牧养事奉中，常遇见的问题。

基督徒生活在世界中，要践行广传福音的大使命，听道且行道，使信仰生活化，生活信仰化，实属不易，随时随地都会面对各种各样的抉择与挑战。我觉得这次的活动内容，就好像及时雨，教我们认识神的真理原则，指导并帮助弟兄姐妹解决很多现实中的实际问题，过讨神喜悦的生活。营会中感恩的事数算不尽，唯有感恩再感恩！

一年一度的教会营，总是在翘首期盼中开始，在意犹未尽里结束。相邀弟兄姐妹们2025年再欢聚。



Children's MINISTRY CORNER

By Pr Carol Ng

Lights! Camera! Action! (Easter Sunday, 31 March 2024)

This year's Easter theme was "Jesus loves you and me" and the message was brought to our Sunday School (SS) children (Kindergarten to P6) in the form of a skit. Our children were in for a treat as our SS teachers and church intern, Shaun Lee, put on an interactive skit. The skit was adapted from the children's storybook "The Three Trees". The story was about how the three trees grew up and then were cut down. Each of them had a wish. The first tree wished to be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world. The second tree hoped to be the most powerful ship in the world carrying the most mighty and powerful king. The third tree's wish was to be the tallest tree in the world and stay at the mountain top and point people the way to heaven. All the trees were chopped down by a strong and loud woodcutter. The three trees felt that their wishes were dashed as they were chopped down and each was turned into insignificant things - a feed box, a small boat, and planks of wood.



One day, the first tree which became a feed box, found that she was carrying the most beautiful treasure in the world - Jesus Christ who was born in the manger. The second tree sailed quietly out into a lake with a tired traveller and his friends. The thundering storm came, and the second tree realised that he was carrying the most



powerful king in the world when the tired traveller said to the thundering storm, "Quiet! Be still!" The third tree realised his beams were yanked together and someone was nailed on him. It was God's love that Jesus came to die on the cross for sinners and reconciled them back to God. The third tree realised this was much better than being the tallest tree in the world because whenever people looked at him, they would always think of God.



We hope that our Sunday School children understood the meaning of Good Friday and Easter in a fun and interactive way. God loves us so much that Jesus came for you and me. Jesus paid the price so that you and I can be God's friends forever and be with God forever. John 3:16.

The children brought home the message by making a craft related to the message for this year's Easter Sunday. Let's continue to pray for our young that they will have a personal faith in the Lord.



Scan the QR code to watch the interactive skit adapted from "The Three Trees". Enjoy!



Adult Crew/Actors:

- Shaun Lee**
- narrator
- Elder Andrew Ong**
- the strong and loud woodcutter; also the carpenter
- Rosalind Ong**
- the first tree
- Michael Goh**
- the second tree
- Deacon Jerome Lim**
- the third tree
- Ong Shwu Hoon**
- logistics I/C
- Emily Ong**
- videographer
- Benjamin Lee**
- photographer
- Chiam Li Li**
- the first tree
(but reported sick)
- Preacher Carol Ng**
- overall Mastermind

Child Crew / Actors:

- Olivia Toh**
- the sun
- Sarah Pan**
- the golden shining star
- Chen Ye Tong**
- Mary
- Jacob Lim**
- Jesus
- Jasper Yeo and Ivan Tay**
- Jesus' disciples
- The rest of the children**
- sound effects for the Wind, Rain and Storm

Special thanks to the teachers:

Ong Shwu Hoon and Chiam Li Li, especially **Rosalind Ong** for making the beautiful props, and all for coming together to bring the gospel in a fun, interactive and meaningful way.



BB1J

~ 2nd Quarter Update



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

By Pr Carol Ng

Acting Captain

1J Singapore Company

Adventure Quest 23 March 2024, Saturday

We thank God for a sunny day on 23 March as 39 BB Junior Companies had their Adventure Quest at West Coast Park. Our five BB 1J P6 Boys headed out early in the morning to Kent Ridge Secondary School where they joined the rest of the 390 Boys for a briefing. Thereafter all were bused to West Coast Park for the Adventure Quest. Our five P6 Boys had fun navigating the different stations and completed most of the stations. The Boys were tested in first-aid, road safety, tent pitching, archery and more. We thank God for the opportunity to participate in this fun BB HQ event.

We praise God for our two Officers - Joshua and Yew Keong who trained the Boys during our regular parades in preparation for the Adventure Quest competition. They were able to apply what they had learned, and BB 1J was awarded a Bronze Honour Roll. Congratulations to all the five P6 Boys!

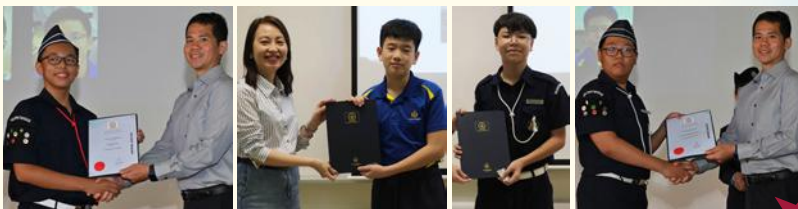


BB & GB Combined Enrolment Ceremony, 6 April 2024

We are thankful that our Junior Boys attended the combined enrolment and dedication ceremony for BB 1J, BB 1st and GB 7th Companies at Westwood Secondary School on 6 April 2024.

Four of our P6 Boys were awarded the Gold Award this year – Leo Lee, Zenith Wong, Ryan Chen and Ng Zhen You. Both Ryan and Zhen You were present in the ceremony to receive their Gold Award from our guest of honour, Gregory Tan, Director Operations, Singapore Police Force. Ng Zhen You was also awarded the Best Boy Award. Congratulations to the awardees! We pray that the ceremony was meaningful to the Boys, Teachers and Officers as they renewed their commitment and responsibility to the Company, to one another and most importantly, to God.

As Officers and Teachers, we praise God for the opportunity to minister to the Boys and are heartened to see their growth in character and maturity. May God continue to work in and through the Boys in the BB ministry and beyond.



Gold Award (left to right): Ng Zhen You, Leo Lee, Zenith Wong, Ryan Chen.
Best Boy Award: Ng Zhen You



(Left) BB1J school principal, teachers and officers



BB Awardees with Principal and Acting Captain



1J with BB parents

BOYS' BRIGADE (BB) 1ST COMPANY

~ 2nd Quarter Update



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

By Ho Yew Keong
Captain
 1st Singapore Company

1ST TERM



During the first term holidays, 17 Boys and Officers attended a two-day Standard First Aid course with CPR and AED, and all of them passed the course. Among them were Rev Ron, Joshua Chen, and teachers Patrick and Khai Fung, who had to renew their certificates.



Our Boys will be participating in the Guard of Honour contingent together with NCC and NPCC for the school's official opening on 12 July 2024. They are expected to be doing armed drill with the SAR 21 rifle. Armed drill will be taught as part of the Musketry badgework before the combined parade to familiarise the Boys with the SAR 21 drill.



For the second part of their Musketry badgework, the Boys went to SAFRA Yishun for Air Rifle shooting. A total of 39 Boys went and all passed with flying colours with the highest score of 48/50.

2ND TERM

We started off our second term with our Annual Enrolment Ceremony at Westwood Secondary School where our GB 7th Company is based. We had a great turnout from the parents who took the bus with their sons from school to Westwood Secondary.





We had our kayaking orientation programme on 28 May at Kallang Water Sports Centre in preparation for the 1 Star Kayaking certification in September. 36 Boys attended this fun programme to build their water confidence before embarking on the 1 Star course.



Updates from Chiang Mai

By Koh Tse Yuen

It's now just over nine months since I came to Chiang Mai. Thank you all for your prayers. When I came over here in August, I had some anxiety about the transition – like getting to know and working with new people, teaching in a different environment, and also more mundane things like finding accommodation and getting used to new daily routines. But God has provided in many ways – good health, friends at work, at church and in the hostel where I stay as well as in the everyday things of life. In some ways, life and people here are not so different from Singapore, and thanks to the internet and the fact that Thailand is just one hour behind Singapore, I get to speak to my family every week and join my cell group meeting and the PSPC monthly prayer meeting most of the time; I also tune in to the 8.45 am service which conveniently ends just before I set off for church here.

My work here is to coach (I use this word here rather than 'teach' because I don't work in a school) three quite different audiences, each with its own special characteristics. I do English with staff of Wycliffe Thai and also with children in

a local school and, recently this past week, children from the church next door. One week a month, I also help missionary kids learn science (in English, not Thai!). Despite having been a lecturer for over twenty years in Singapore, I find I still have much to learn to motivate learning and communicate effectively, so I appreciate your prayers!

In May, I helped to organise an English Immersion programme for Wycliffe Thai, and then our next project will be a study visit for Thai school teachers to come to Singapore, possibly in May next year, which hopefully will lead to more exchanges. If anyone is interested to host school teachers in their home or if you are a teacher and, God willing, if the door is open, you are interested to conduct short (few days) workshops on educational topics here in Thailand, do let the editor of the Messenger, Gaik Bee, or me know.

One of the things I have seen in these last few months, which I didn't appreciate as a tourist, is how God works through the local churches and believers. In December, with the PSPC group, I saw how the young people from Ban Klang

(Continued on Page 26)

(Continued from Page 25)



Baptist church would go to villages to share the gospel; I see the same with my neighbours, the Chiang Mai Theological Seminary students, and with the young people of the church I attend, Blessing Home Church.

Teaching English through science experiments – students at a neighbourhood primary school learning how to detect vitamin C in fruit juice



I have had the opportunity to go with Wycliffe Thai staff when they organise events at local churches (a bit like our mission-in-focus month, but here it's called Café Wycliffe) to encourage Thai believers to take part in missions – and that really can be a step of faith and a sacrifice for many but there is an awareness of how important it is. Do remember the Thai church in your prayers and perhaps join the PSPC mission trips in December to see the ground for yourselves.



With the Wycliffe Thai staff at a Café Wycliffe activity in a local Chiang Mai church

Reflections on Papa, One Year On – Remembering Paul Chin

By Andrew Chin

25 July 2024, exactly one year since our Papa's passing to glory. Oh, how we all miss him so much. His cheerful demeanour, his towering presence, his self-assured countenance, and his ever-confident voice are forever etched in our minds.



For us who remain, we continue life without him, going forth in a new chapter in our lives, with him in spirit and knowing full well he is definitely in a much better place.

The COVID-19 pandemic period had changed his life drastically: since mid-2021, after surviving a heart attack, a leaky heart valve, a subsequent bleed in the brain under the influence of blood thinners and a fracture of the hip after a fall, his physical health deteriorated dramatically. A once fit and sturdy bulwark of the family, he was reduced to heart-wrenching skin and bones. Despite the physical deconditioning, he remained alert and sharp; his mind never once failed him. So determined was he to walk despite the painful fracture and being bed-bound, he willed himself to eventually stand up and hobble on towards the last days.

We remember during his darkest days when he was literally staring at death's countenance, he would calmly tell his doctors, "My life is in God's hands. I will live one day at a time till I meet Him face to face." His faith in God never wavered and that carried him through the most challenging period of his life.

1 Timothy 5:8 is the verse that sums up his faith. Despite his successes and achievements, Papa lived simply. He had a good heart and never failed to provide for his family, including the extended family members, taking upon this responsibility seriously as the eldest in his family. Even now, his beliefs and actions still greatly influence the family.

He was always looking for deals and not wanting to spend too much. His biggest indulgence, once in a while, was enjoying delicious meals in the company of his friends and family. It is a tradition we still practise and intend to continue honouring after his passing.

During the last year of his life, he was always so highly spirited and full of hope, singing praises to God and proclaiming His grace and mercy towards him even in his weakened state. His favourite Psalm 23 never left his lips as he constantly claimed God's promises in those words. We are heartened by the fact that Papa had made peace with God and was mercifully taken into the arms of Jesus. We rejoice knowing that he has met his Maker and is enjoying eternal rest in His presence.

So long, Papa! Till we meet again. Amen.

Love,

Anna, Andrew and Jeffrey

PSPC Easter Service 2024

Photos by Alan Yeo



In & Around PSPC

INSTALLATION OF NEW EDC MEMBERS 12 May 2024

Elder Wan Kum Tho & Deacon Esther Ng



MUMMY CIRCLE EVENT 25 May 2024



WEDDING



Dear PSPC, we are **Gideon Tan & Crystal Lee** and we got married on **11 May 2024!**

It was a beautiful and memorable day for the both of us and it would not have been possible without the support from PSPC staff and friends. As we embark on this new journey, we look forward to building a Christ-centered marriage together and in PSPC.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. – James 1:17

NEW BIRTHS



Baby **Joy Ow Le Xuan** was born on **31 May 2024**, to the joy of her parents **Ow Yuhao and Serene Ho**. We praise God for His goodness and grace to us from the conceiving to parenthood journey; and we hope that the church can pray with us for patience, strength and wisdom to be godly and loving parents to bring up Joy in the likeness of Christ!

TESSA JOY CHAN
(14 April 2024)

Parents: **Chan Fanshen & Tiffany Lau**

JEVIS TAY SHUN FENG
(22 June 2024)

Parents: **Zekeil Tay & Andrea Goh**

PSPC Updates

(April - Present)

DEATHS

Charles Lim Mah Thuan
05.04.24

Jenny Tan Geok Kim
22.04.24

Stella Chiang
22.06.24



Sharing on Easter Retreat

by Isaac Wat (Middler)

The Easter retreat was a residential camp held from 29/3 to 31/3. Activities included a wide variety of games, Tenebrae service, BBQ dinner and a movie night. Games included a complex hide and seek, keeping sheets of paper dry, and preventing someone from sitting on a chair, as well as a scavenger hunt. The Tenebrae Reflection Service was a great time to reflect on ourselves and our actions. It started with an art showcase, showcasing various thought-provoking art pieces. It was followed by a performance retelling the story of the events leading to Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The solemn atmosphere allowed us to reflect on the significance of Good Friday thoroughly. The BBQ was a unique experience with delicious food. It was great planning on the part of the Youth Committee. Solid 7/10 overall!



Sharing on Church Camp

by Rebecca Chan and Samantha Ho (Middlers)

What we found interesting was that we all came from different DGs and ages, but through the talks and games, we managed to come together and bond over the simplest things and laugh together.

The most enjoyable part of camp was the Night Games. We were in groups with people we had never worked with before, but somehow, we could put aside our differences and solve the very hard riddles. After that, we had to go around the hotel to find pens – when doing that, we needed everyone's cooperation and teamwork in order to win.

by Julian Eng (Junior)

During the talks at church camp, I found that the way the speaker shared the message was funny and unique. I learned from the book of Philippians that it is a letter written by Paul to the church in Philippi, telling them how to live as Christians. Philippians 2:3 says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." From there, I learned to put others before myself and not to be egoistic.

I also enjoyed the laser tag game. Experiencing a real shooting battle was really thrilling. I remember when my teammate and I rushed to the enemy's base and tried to eliminate some of them, but I died immediately!!! I hope that I will be able to do this again in the future!



For enquiries, please contact Rev Ron Tan at rontan@pspc.org.sg or Shaun Lee at slighme@gmail.com